

From: Dave Dooling
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 11:06am
Subject: Not tough enough

Gentlemen:

As a freelance writer I would like to register my string disapproval of the weak remedies proposed in the Microsoft antitrust settlement. Microsoft has behaved like a corporate thug and has even acted as if it was above the law. The supposed side-by-side demonstration of two different operating systems in court -- which turned out to have the results altered -- should have earned the lawyers time in jail for perjury and contempt. As a science writer, I know that the correct way to run the test would have been with two identical hard drives swapped in and out of the same machine so the test would be a true apples-and-apples comparison. It is an example of how Microsoft does what it wants.

The proposed remedies would leave the field open for them to continue taking advantage of the consumer and to prey on other businesses. In particular, the proposal to give away software and old computers means nothing as far as financial penalties go. Microsoft will tout the retail value of packages that actually cost them a small percentage to manufacture. They will then have schools locked into Microsoft software and have to pay dearly for upgrades in the future. The situation is more like a pusher giving a school kid the first fix for free.

Microsoft is too big for the national good. They control most of the desktop and are trying to extend their reach into more of business and entertainment. I strongly feel that stronger remedies are required, including splitting the company into three or more separate companies. I further believe that given the reliance of American business on Microsoft products that the U.S. Government should consider regulating Microsoft as a public utility.

Sincerely,
Dave Dooling

Dave Dooling / D2 Science Communications
555 Sparkman Drive, Suite 820C / Huntsville, AL 35816 USA
256-890-0972 (voice & fax)
256-830-5800 (Sharon, my wife and secretary, wolf.mother@d2sci.com)
dave@d2sci.com <http://d2sci.com>

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